

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct some minor typographical errors listed therein. The claims have been amended to remove the multiple dependencies listed therein and to correct some typographical errors. Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 14-22 and 24-41 are pending in this application. Claims 3, 12, 13 and 23 have been canceled. The subject matter canceled from the claims is removed without prejudice to its reintroduction at a later date, so as to reduce fees incurred for excess claims.

Conclusion

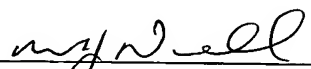
Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Mark J. Nuell (Reg. No. 36,623) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: February 2, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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DRN/clb

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